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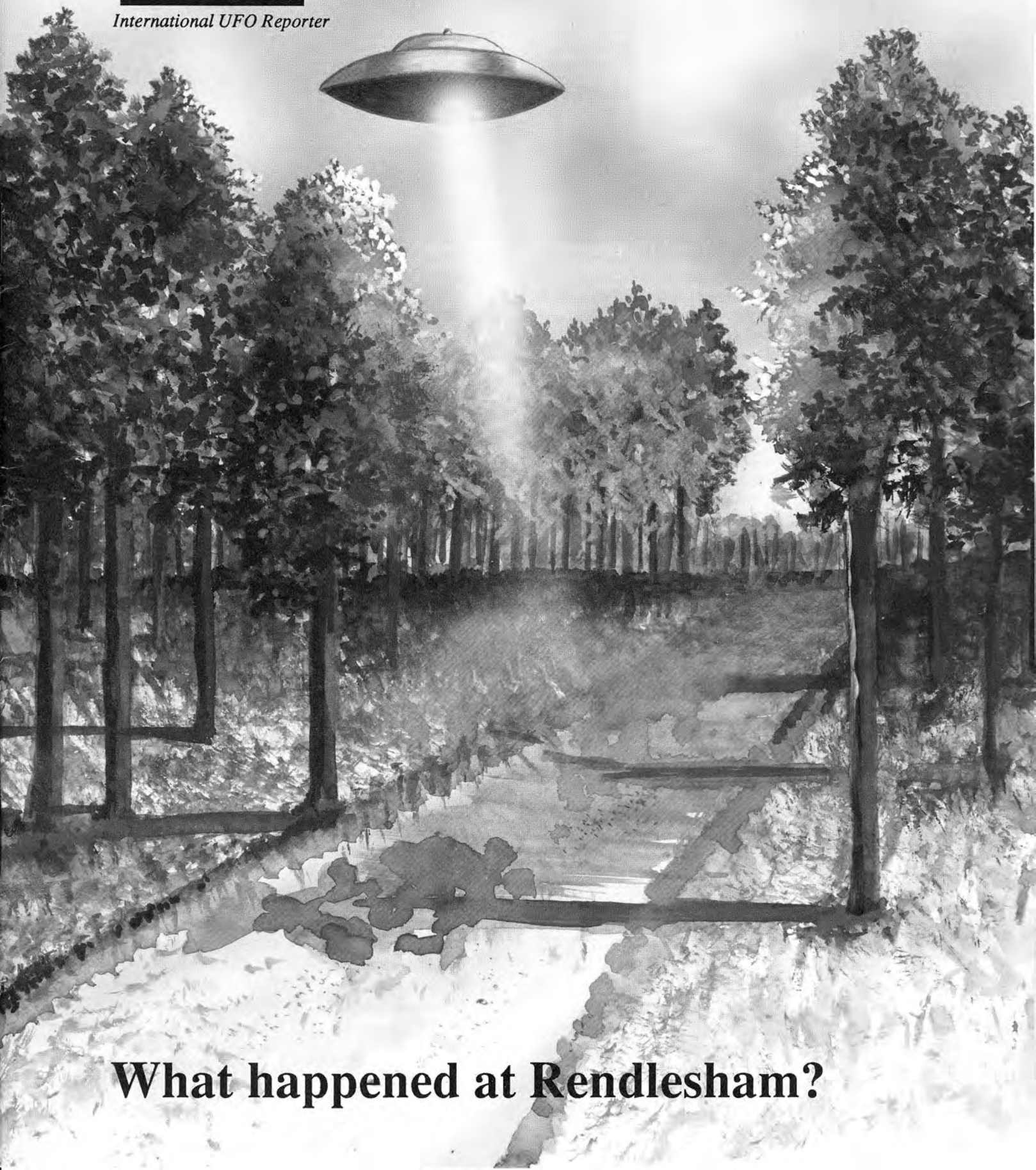

What happened at Rendlesham?

INTERNATIONAL UFO REPORTER

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EDITORIAL

Cover-up now

Jerome Clark

Ufologists long ago learned to expect the worst from media treatments of their subject, and usually that is just what they get. A typical media presentation of the phenomenon falls into one of three categories: (1) the silly-season, tongue-in-cheek approach; (2) the mindless parroting of debunking cliches; or (3) superficiality and sensationalism (of the sort parodied some years ago by Woody Allen in a hilarious *New Yorker* piece entitled "Flying Saucers: Threat or Menace?").

The much-awaited *UFO Cover-up? . . . Live*, produced by Michael Seligman and broadcast across the United States on October 14, fell into the last category, as none of us should have been surprised to discover. Disappointment among ufologists, including those who appeared on the show and with whom I subsequently spoke, was nearly universal.

To the extent that any of us harbored hope that this show would be different from its dismal predecessors, it was because of the happy association we had with Seligman's researchers, a more intelligent lot than we were used to dealing with. They asked the right questions and seemed interested in making sure that what they presented was adequately documented. Presumably it is not their fault that the show turned out to be not only exploitative but downright amateurish – not just bad ufology, but bad television to boot. Even the simplest things – the sorts of things even a used-car commercial can manage with aplomb – didn't come off. Host Mike Farrell kept flubbing his lines, perhaps because the irritating Space Age muzak constantly rumbling in the background threw off his concentration. Or maybe it was the banality of the script he was reading that caused his mind to wander.

To ufologists, however, the show represented, most of all, a bungled opportunity. It didn't *have* to be a *National Enquirer*-style presentation. The production company had far greater resources, in terms of both finances and full-time investigators, than CUFOS or any other civilian UFO-research organization has ever had; it could have used them to do actual investigative reporting into allegations about MJ-12, Project Aquarius, EBEs, crashed discs and other elements of the cover-up story. It could have come up with something of substance, perhaps even something that would have electrified the viewing audience and caught the attention of mainstream media.

Instead it chose, first, to fill much of the program with irrelevant material about the UFO phenomenon as a whole. All of this could have been treated as background information and covered in the first 10 minutes, leaving what followed to concentrate on what was, after all, the ostensible subject: the cover-up. The noncover-up material (including clips from dumb '50s science-fiction movies) functioned, in effect, as filler.

When the show did get to the cover-up, it handled the subject with startling ineptness. The Roswell incident, a case so richly documented that it forced even the most skeptical ufologists to take seriously crashed discs and cover-ups, was discussed so briefly and superficially that viewers would have been justified in dismissing it as just another nutty story. The last part of the show focused on the fantastic but unverified claims of two reputed military-intelligence officers (their faces blacked out, their voices altered) concerning contact between government agencies and "extraterrestrial biological entities."

Seligman's organization acknowledged that it did not know who "Falcon" and "Condor" are, nor did it try, so far as viewers could tell, to establish whether or not these anonymous informants' tales are anything but lurid fantasies. Admittedly, that would not have been easy, since if the stories are true, they would be among the best-kept, best-protected secrets of the U.S. government. But surely more could have been done.

As Bill Moore and Stan Friedman have shown, at least some aspects of the cover-up story can be investigated and documented, as witness their remarkable reconstruction (over three decades after the fact) of the Roswell incident – which, if a UFO crash (as the evidence to date suggests), is where the cover-up begins. Why did not, for example, Seligman's outfit look into another crashed-disc story, such as the one alleging a crash along the Texas-Mexico border in December 1950? Why did it not pay a document examiner to judge the authenticity of the MJ-12 briefing paper? Why did it not seek out fresh leads, fresh informants, fresh evidence? Why did it do nothing but recycle – this time, of course, to a far larger audience – claims, both supported and unsupported, currently circulating in the UFO community?

The answer, sadly, is that those ultimately responsible for the show didn't give a damn. To them the show was, after all, just show biz. But to the discerning viewer it was garbage.

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A fire in the forest: new light on the Rendlesham landing

by Benton Jamison

Benton Jamison, Ph.D., is a professor of mathematics at the State University of New York at Albany. He has had a longstanding interest in the question of government and military involvement in UFO investigation.

RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge are air bases near the east coast of England a few miles northeast of the East Anglian town of Ipswich. The two bases are leased to the United States Air Force under provisions of the NATO treaty. Bentwaters is the larger of the two bases. On it is the control tower for the two bases, as well as the headquarters of the United States Air Force 81st Tactical Fighter Wing. The "Bentwaters case" refers to incidents occurring in late December 1980 not on the base complex itself, but in Rendlesham Forest, a 17-square-mile, commercially-logged tract of woods, much of which lies between the two bases and part of which surrounds the east half of Woodbridge.

The first account of peculiar goings-on reached Brenda Butler in early January 1981. Butler lived (and I believe still does) in the coastal town of Leiston, a few miles northeast of the base complex. Her source, an American airman friend described as a "security officer" at the base complex, is given the pseudonym "Steve Roberts" in the book *Sky Crash* [1]. He claimed that in late December a farmer living near Rendlesham Forest had called the base to report that an aircraft had crashed into the forest. Roberts and other airmen were sent to investigate. They found not an airplane but a UFO. After they reported back to the base, the Base Commander and other high-ranking base personnel arrived to find not only the UFO but a trio of three-foot-tall entities, clad in silver suits and suspended in beams of light. The UFO was apparently damaged on the outside, and the entities were repairing it. They and the Base Commander engaged in some sort of brief communication. After four hours, the craft rose from the ground, hovered briefly, and took off at enormous speed ([2], pages 5-6).

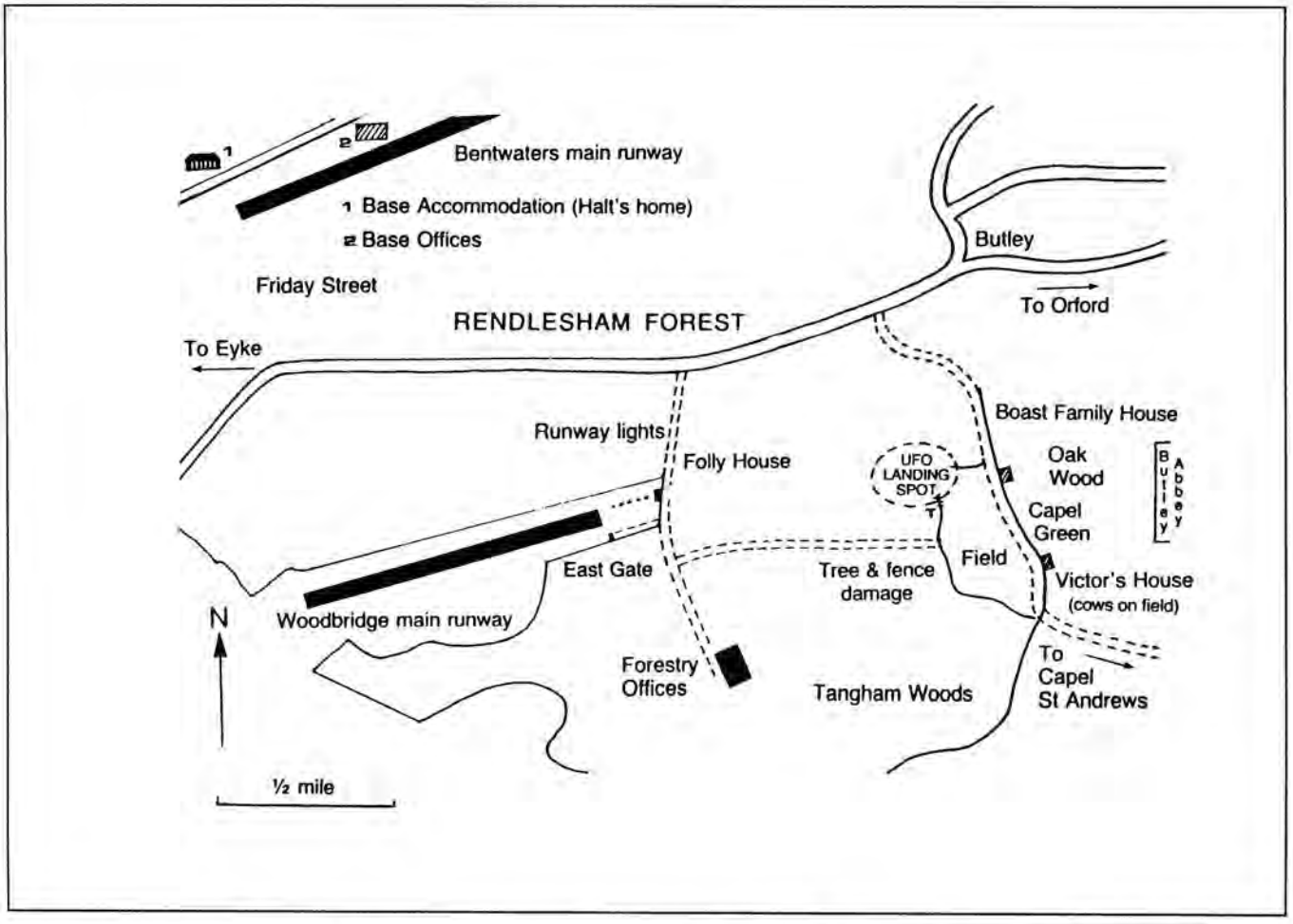
Butler did not laugh. She did not flee Roberts' presence, or suggest to him that a condition which gives rise to delusions as severe as his calls for immediate therapy and perhaps a long vacation. Instead, she guaranteed herself a permanent place in ufodom by launching an investigation which was to consume a sizable chunk of the next three years of her life. She was joined in this effort first by her friend Dot Street, and later by the more experienced investigator Jenny Randles. Randles had already gotten wind of the story via an intriguing account given her by the writer Paul Begg ([1], pages 25-28). Butler, Randles, and Street give a chronological account of their investigation in their book *Sky Crash*.

After her talk with Steve Roberts, Butler proceeded to ask local townspeople as well as airmen from the base whether they recalled anything out of the ordinary that had happened near Bentwaters/Woodbridge during the last days of the previous year. What she turned up ([1], pages 9-11 and 40-44) suggested that lights had indeed been seen over the forest, that something may well have crashed, and that base personnel had indeed been sent off the base to investigate. Apparently no one she turned up said anything about aliens, whether floating, repairing, or communicating. (The account that got Randles interested in the case did support Roberts' story in this and several other respects [(1), pages 25-28].)

The three investigators made repeated and largely fruitless attempts to pry information out of the police, military, and Ministry of Defense. The United States military would turn out to be more forthcoming than its British counterpart.

The first account of the Bentwaters incident in an American periodical appeared in the "UFO Update" section of the March 1983 issue of *Omni* magazine [3]. The article, written by Eric Mishara, began with a brief recounting of the Butler-Street-Randles story, probably gleaned from Randles' 1982 *Flying Saucer Review* article on the case ([2]). Mishara's article, though, was more than a quick introduction to the case for the American reader. He had somehow managed to interview Col. Ted Conrad, who had been base commander at Bentwaters in late December 1980. (Randles' *FSR* article [2] had stated that it was the base commander who had the brief encounter with the aliens.) Conrad denied to Mishara that he had seen any aliens. His affirmations, however, are as significant as his denial. Here is that part of Mishara's article based on what Conrad told him:

> Colonel Ted Conrad, the base commander alleged to have spoken with the aliens, has a more dramatic version of the story: At 10:30 on that fateful night, he recalls, four Air Force policemen spotted lights from what they thought was a small plane de-



scending into the forest. Two of the men tracked the object on foot and came upon a large, tripod-mounted craft. It had no windows, but was studded with brilliant red and blue lights. Each time the men came within 50 yards of the ship, Conrad relates, it levitated six feet in the air and backed away. They followed it for almost an hour through the woods and across a field until it took off at "phenomenal speed."

Acting on the reports made by his men, Col. Conrad began a brief investigation of the incident in the morning. He went into the forest and located a triangular pattern obviously made by the tripod legs. He claims he never observed any aliens, but did interview two of the eyewitnesses, and concludes, "Those lads saw something, but I don't know what it was."

The "fateful night" referred to is specified earlier in the article as "the night of December 30, 1980." It is not clear whether this means the night of December 29-30 or the night of December 30-31. I do not know whether Mishara got the date from the Randles' 1982 *FSR* article where it is given as "December 30, 1980," or from Conrad himself.

At the time of his interview, Mishara was unaware that there reposed in the files of the British Ministry of Defense a document containing another description of what is almost certainly the incident Conrad described to Mishara. This document, a memorandum for the British MOD, was made public in June 1983, shortly after it was released by the U.S. Air Force to Robert Todd, an investigator who specializes in using the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act to obtain documents squirreled away by various government agencies. Dated January 13, 1981, the memo was composed by Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, Deputy Base Commander at Bentwaters/Woodbridge. Halt's version of the incident is given in its first paragraph.

Early in the morning of 27 Dec 80 (approximately 0300L), two USAF security police patrolmen saw unusual lights outside the back gate at RAF Woodbridge. Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down, they called for permission to go outside the gate to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was reported as being metallic [sic] in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object

was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

It is natural to conclude that, discrepancies aside, Halt and Conrad are describing the same incident. A major (and still unresolved) discrepancy is the date of the incident. Halt's memo states that it happened "early in the morning of 27 Dec 80," while Mishara implies that it happened on the "night of December 30." The new testimony presented in this article does not settle the question of when the incident happened, but it does give compelling reasons for excluding December 27 as a possibility.

The opportunity for more testimony on the Bentwaters arose when in 1985 CUFOS, following up on a letter from John Lear, arranged for me to interview an Air Force A-10 pilot who had been at Woodbridge in late December 1980. The pilot was on the wing staff of the 81st Tactical Fighter Wing. Because of this, he attended a staff meeting during which the Wing Commander was told of an incident which had taken place the preceding night and which involved what was described as a UFO. I interviewed the pilot five times by telephone. He did not object to my using his real name in this article, but I choose not to. I call him Maj. Everett.

I draw the following conclusions from these interviews:

(1) On the night before the staff meeting, security policemen sent into Rendlesham Forest in search of a light that had been seen to descend into the forest encountered a brightly lighted object which eluded them as they approached it. The object was believed to be a UFO.

(2) Wing Commander Gordon Williams was in charge of the staff meeting. The UFO incident was related by the Base Commander, Col. Ted Conrad.

(3) Col. Halt, the Deputy Base Commander, went into Rendlesham Forest in an attempt to find the object the security police had sighted. He was described as having spent the night "tramping through the woods" armed with a "brick" (walkie talkie).

(4) A tape recording was made during the incident.

(5) In the course of a conversation which followed the staff meeting, Everett was told that the object had been tracked at a radar base located at Watton.

(6) There is uncertainty about the date of the incident. It is probable that it took place on the night of December 29-30, 1980. The nights of December 26-27 and 27-28 can be ruled out. The night of December 25-26 cannot.

I began the first interview by introducing myself and confirming that Everett was willing to be interviewed. I asked him to describe his involvement with the Bentwaters incident. His reply:

> Each morning, in a fighter wing, the Wing Commander gets together with his staff members, and they go over the highlights, basically, of what happened during the previous day. I just happened to be filling in for one of the normal staff members on the morning they discussed the events that happened the night before. The events that were related were basically that someone saw something come down in Rendlesham Forest between Bentwaters Air Force Base and Woodbridge. They're basically two airfields that are operated by the same fighter wing -- they're no more than three miles apart, and in between is the Rendlesham Forest. According to what came out at the staff meeting the following morning, the security police were alerted to go out into the woods where they claim to have seen and come quite close to an object which was very bright and sitting on the ground in the forest itself. The Base Commander was called out, and he also went tramping off through Rendlesham Forest. Although I don't believe he actually arrived at the scene, the security policemen that were called out did claim to have definitely seen something which was described as a UFO there in the forest.

Who was in charge at the staff meeting? Who told of the incident? Which staff officer was reported to have "tramped through the forest" in search of what was described as a UFO? Were it not for the fact that Everett was trying to remember details of a staff meeting held six years before the interview, he could have answered these questions right away, and I could simply list the three names. But Maj. Everett's recollection of the people involved was not as vivid as that of the events described. It took some time to come to the conclusion that Conrad had related the incident and that Halt had been out in Rendlesham Forest the night before.

Some of what follows requires that the reader know something about the upper levels of the chain of command at Bentwaters/Woodbridge, as well as what a "stand-up" staff meeting is. First in command is the Wing Commander. Second in command is the Vice Commander. Third in command is the Base Commander, who is responsible for, as Everett put it, the "base security, basically, just the running of the physical plant." Fourth in command is the Deputy Base Commander.

During the first interview, Everett stated that, each morning in a fighter wing, the Wing Commander gets together with his staff members. The basic purpose of such a meeting is to go over the highlights of what happened the previous day. Later in the interview, however, he remarked that there were no staff meetings on weekends, and that Mondays were often partially given over to preparation for the first "stand-up" meeting of the week on Tuesday. As he described it to me, a "stand-up" is a type of meeting in which each person who presents material literally stands up and goes over what has happened in his area of responsibility since the last stand-up meeting. Attending a stand-up are the Wing Commander (or his representative), and the Deputy Commanders for Operations (DCO), Maintenance (DCM), and Resources (DRN), or their representatives. The function of each of these

Deputy Commanders is to "find out what has happened during the time period since the last stand-up and encapsulate it – boil it down into a few brief statements – and relay it to the Wing Commander – an upward flow of information." These summaries entail the preparation of viewgraph slides that are shown on an overhead projector. Also in attendance is the Base Commander, or his representative. As Everett said, "The Base Commander is responsible for reporting on any items having to do with the physical security or status of the base."

Everett did not attend staff meetings on a regular basis. He said he was at the staff meeting at which the UFO incident was related because "I just happened to be filling in for one of the normal staff members that morning." The meeting he attended was a stand-up. He was filling in for the DCO.

During the first interview, I raised questions about who was at the staff meeting:

Jamison: Who was the Base Commander?

Everett: The Base Commander was Col. Ted [slight pause] Conrad...I don't recall Col. Conrad being at the staff meeting because of -- it had something to do with his being up quite late during the night -- involved with the incident.

Jamison: Do you recall who was giving the report?

Everett: Probably the Assistant Base Commander, or whoever his [the Base Commander's] number two in command was.

Jamison: Do you recall who he was?

Everett: No, I sure don't. It was a long time ago.

Jamison: I'm going to mention the names of a few officers whose names have come up as being involved in the incident.

Everett: Okay.

Jamison: One of them is Col. Halt.

Everett: Halt. [pause] [spelling out his name].

Jamison: Yes.

Everett: As a matter of fact, now that you actually mention the name, it may well have been he who actually debriefed that incident in the staff meeting. It may have been.

Jamison: Would he have been the one to suggest that this perhaps be reported? [The reference to a report will be pursued later.]

Everett: If he was the individual who did debrief the commander on the happenings of the night before, then it seems logical to me to assume that he would make the suggestion that it be passed up-channel or a report made.... If he had debriefed the commander, then he or one of the other people on the staff would have asked the question "shall we make a formal report, or pass it up the line?" I don't recall at this time who briefed it and I wouldn't have mentioned Col. Halt's name had you not mentioned it.

Jamison: Another name mentioned was Gordon Williams.

Everett: He, of course, was the Wing Commander.

At this point I asked Everett if he could recall the name of the Vice Commander. He could not. I went on:

Jamison: Can you say whether Gordon Williams was at the staff meeting?

Everett: No, I can't.

After going over some more names, I returned to Col. Halt:

Jamison: The person doing the briefing might have been Col. Halt?

Everett: If Col. Conrad wasn't, then Col. Halt would have been the guy relaying the information.

From later in the first interview:

Everett: There was a humorous part of the briefing.... Col. Halt, if it was Col. Halt, relaying stories of Col. Conrad out tramping through Rendlesham Forest in the middle of the night with a brick, trying to get to the scene of the crime, so to speak. We probably had a good chuckle over that – the mental image of him tramping through the forest.

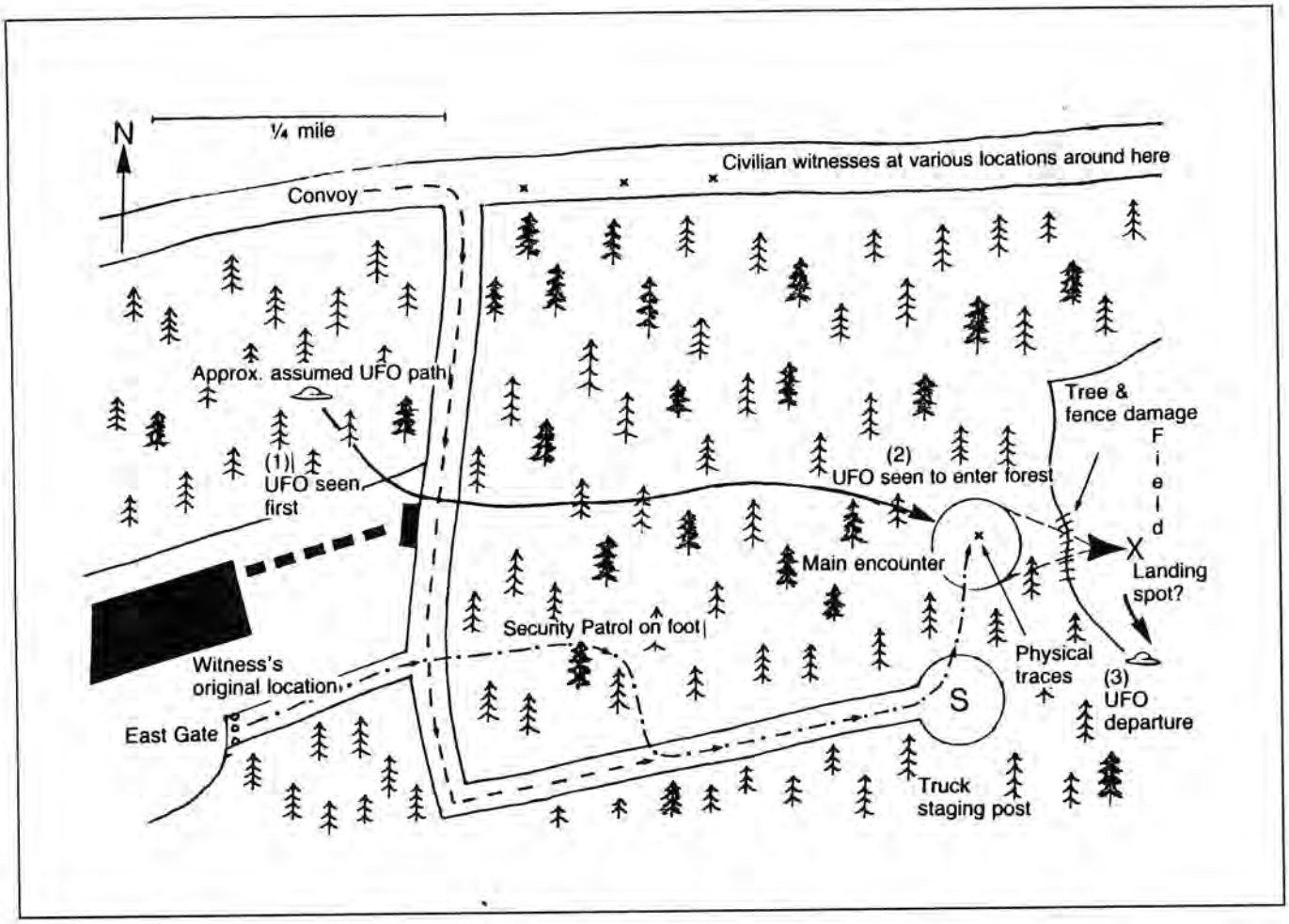
Jamison: With a brick?

Everett: A portable radio...a walkie talkie.

Most of what I said about staff meetings and stand-up meetings Everett told me in the second interview. At one point during my brief lesson on the staff structure of a fighter wing, Everett interrupted himself to assert:

Before we get into that, I've got to tell you that, on thinking back, I can't really be sure that it was Halt telling that it was Ted Conrad out tramping through the bush or Conrad telling that about Col. Halt tramping through the bush.

After Everett finished telling me what a stand-up is, we got back to the questions of who was doing what at the



staff meeting and whether it had been Halt or Conrad out in the field the night before:

Everett: It was the Wing Commander in charge of the stand-up. Gordon Williams ran the stand-up.

Jamison: Are you deducing that it was Gordon Williams, or did you actually remember that it was Gordon Williams there?

Everett: [pause] I am about 95-percent certain that it was Gordon Williams who said, "I don't believe that we want to make any official statement about what happened the past evening."

Note that, according to Everett's account, Williams described *the past evening* as the time of the incident. To continue:

Everett: It seems more logical, thinking back to the way the pecking order works, that it would be Conrad, the Base Commander, talking about something the Deputy Commander had been doing – out running through the woods.... Naturally, if you've the option of calling out the Base Commander or the Deputy Base Commander who is one rank lower, you're going to call the Deputy. It's more logical to me, though I can't remember, but it might have been Halt out there running through the forest.

After transcribing the above message and reading it over a few times, I decided I wanted to be certain of what Everett meant by "it's more logical to me." I brought up the point in a later interview.

Jamison: Let's suppose that the Base Commander gets a staff call early in the morning saying that something is going on in the forest. Back in the third interview [actually it was the second interview] you say that if you have both the Base Commander and his deputy available to go out into the forest to investigate, it is more logical to send out the deputy.

Everett: Rank has its privileges.

I return to the second interview. Everett's next mention of the roles played by Conrad and Halt followed my bringing up the issue of Col. Halt's tape recording. A tape recording of Halt out in the field does exist and has been circulated among investigators. It is that recording to which I refer in what follows:

Jamison: There's a tape recording out, with Col. Halt speaking, and on this tape recording he is calling off times every once in a while, and the last time he calls off a time is about 4:00 A.M.... I was going to ask if the person relating [the account] at the staff meeting seemed a bit tired. What time was the staff meeting?

Everett's answer shows that he was still considering whether it was Halt or Conrad who had attended the staff meeting:

Everett: Normally, about 7:30 or 8:00 in the morning. So [continuing the train of thought I had just broken] I think it was Conrad who relayed the story of Col. Halt out there in the forest. I do recall, now that you mention it, that there was actually a tape recording made of the conversations on the brick – the walkie-talkie.

Jamison: Was the information that tape recordings were made something mentioned at the meeting or something you heard later – or perhaps you heard some of the recording?

Everett: They didn't play the recording at the briefing. However, it was mentioned at the briefing that there was a tape recording that had been made.

Later in the second interview Everett remarks:

I think it more likely that it was Ted Conrad running the staff meeting.

Up to the time I first called him, Everett had never read anything on the Bentwaters incident. After the first two interviews, I sent him a copy of the *Omni* article. He then obtained a copy of *Sky Crash*. By the third interview, he had read both the article and the book. The following is from the third interview:

Jamison: Somebody at the staff meeting was reporting this [the incident of the night before], and the last time you weren't absolutely sure whether it was Conrad or Halt.

Everett: I believe it was Col. Conrad who was reporting it, and I also believe it was Col. Williams who was running the stand-up.

Jamison: That would have been the person with the "brick" – is it your impression that it was Col. Halt?

Everett: Yes, it is. I'm almost certain it was Col. Halt.

From later in the interview:

Jamison: Is it still your impression that the person reporting the incident at the meeting was doing so because someone else who might otherwise have been reporting was sleeping because he had been out [late]?

Everett: Yeah, the comment was that he was out tramping through the forest all night, chasing lights through Rendlesham Forest.

The officer second in command in a fighter wing is the Vice Commander. His name had not come up in any of the interviews; indeed, Everett could not remember it. If Williams had not been in charge at a stand-up meeting, the natural replacement for him would have been his second-in-command, the Vice Commander. During the fourth interview I asked Everett why he hadn't mentioned the possibility that the Vice Commander had been in charge of the staff meeting.

Jamison: At one point in the second interview – although you've now been pretty well convinced that the Wing Commander himself, Gordon Williams, was running the meeting – you suggested that it might have been Ted Conrad running the meeting. Now, it seems to me that if Gordon Williams weren't running the meeting, the logical person to run it would be the Vice Commander.

Everett: That's true.

Jamison: Nowhere do you suggest that the Vice Commander was even present at this stand-up.

Everett: I've been giving this some thought. About a year after I got there, there was a change in Vice Commander, and in fact for a time there was no Vice Commander. Then I believe Ted Conrad became the Vice Commander for a while, and Sam Morgan became the Base Commander.

Jamison: Might this meeting have been at a time when there was no Vice Commander?

Everett: I think it probably was. Otherwise I would remember who he was.

Having presented the evolution of Everett's recollections on who was running the staff meeting (conclusion: Gordon Williams), who was relating what had happened the night before (conclusion: Ted Conrad), and who had been out the night before tramping through Rendlesham Forest in search of a UFO (conclusion: Charles Halt), I return to the incident itself. In the third interview (recall that by then he had read both the *Omni* article and *Sky Crash*), Everett recalled more of what had been said at the staff meeting:

Also, I've done a bit of thinking about it, and, to the best of my recollection, I distinctly remember [the security police] going through the forest after these lights that they had seen descend. I

remember talk of their getting close to it – within 100 or so feet – and then the thing taking off, going a bit farther through the woods, and coming down again – I distinctly remember that event as having taken place the night before. I also remember that it was mentioned in the staff meeting – I don't recall by whom – there is a tape recording of the whole thing taking place.

The last statement reinforces what he had said about the tape recording during the second interview. After reviewing the earlier interviews, I wanted to get more detail, if possible, on the apparently elusive behavior of the object. In the fifth interview I asked Everett if he remembered anything else said at the staff meeting about the behavior of the object. He replied:

What was mentioned at the staff meeting was that a bright object was observed coming down somewhere outside the perimeter of the base at Woodbridge and the the security police had pursued it through Rendlesham Forest, and when they got within a certain distance of it, it moved beyond their view, and they had to continue following it.

From later in the interview:

Everett: That aspect [taking off when approached] was definitely discussed in the meeting as having happened just that way: when they got within – I remember 50 feet, but *Sky Crash* puts it about 100 or 150 feet – it elected by some means to move, and they continued following it around.

Jamison: Did you get the impression that the object repeated that sort of behavior when it was approached again?

Everett: Several times.

Jamison: Several times?

Everett: That's the impression I got from the story that was related at the staff meeting.

The description of the incident given at the staff meeting is very similar to that given by Col. Conrad in the *Omni* article. I emphasize that many of the details Everett provided were given during the first two interviews, before he had read that article.

During the first interview, Everett mentioned a possible radar tracking:

I believe it to be true, although I couldn't definitely say it is, that the English military radar, which in that part of England is called Eastern Radar, tracked the object itself on radar as far as the vicinity of Bentwaters, where it went below their radar coverage – I don't know how it first appeared or how it disappeared.

At the beginning of this article I mentioned that Jenny Randles first heard about a possible UFO incident at Bentwaters from the writer Paul Begg. Begg had heard what he told Randles from a radar operator at Watton. I quote the beginning of the radar man's story from *Sky Crash* ([1], page 25-26):

The date was 27 December and on that day on their screen an unusual target was picked up heading in from the coast. After a few minutes' debate as to what it might be, and following standard procedure, they notified other radar systems along the eastern seaboard. Checks were made to see if it was any military traffic that they did not know about, but nothing was discovered. Watton lost the traffic about 50 miles south to the east of Ipswich and in the vicinity of Rendlesham Forest. They did not know how it was lost, but it may well have gone below the minimum height for their coverage at that range.

Also from Paul Begg's account ([1], footnote on page 27):

He further claimed that RAF Bentwaters had called Watton and *asked* for radar information of a visual sighting on that night *as it was happening....*

Now, the radar man who spoke to Begg was not on duty at Watton at the time, but was told about it by a colleague who had been. No investigator has been able to talk with the original source for the story, but Randles did interview Begg's informant by telephone in February 1981 ([1], page 27). What is most intriguing about the story is its account ([1], page 27) of entities repairing a landed UFO. As far as I know, this is the only known corroboration of that aspect of Steve Roberts' story.

As soon as Everett related that he had heard about a radar tracking of the object, I asked whether he had heard it at the staff meeting. Everett replied that the staff meeting had been a long time ago, and that he couldn't be sure that the source of the report of the radar tracking was the staff meeting itself. Then he added:

I recall having come away from the staff meeting with the impression that this object had been tracked by Eastern Radar. Their location is relatively close to Bentwaters, and they are responsible for military radar coverage in that part of England.

Later in the first interview, however, he expressed uncertainty as to whether he had first heard the radar tracking report at the staff meeting or in the course of "bar talk" during the days following the meeting. We discussed this again during the third interview. Before that, during the second interview (which preceded Everett's reading of *Sky Crash*), I told him that in *Sky Crash* mention is made of a radar tracking "at a base called Watton in Norfolk." He had been unable to recall the name of the radar base he had refered to as "Eastern Radar" in the first

interview, but his response to my prompting was quite emphatic:

RAF Watton. Exactly. That's where Eastern Radar is located. The name of the base I kept coming up with was Wattisham, but I know it wasn't Wattisham. Watton is definitely it.

By the time of the third interview he had changed his mind about whether he had first heard the radar tracking report at the staff meeting:

I've given that [the question of his source for the radar report] some thought also. I think that this was probably something I picked up after the fact. I don't think that anyone [at the staff meeting] talked about specific objects being tracked by Eastern Radar. I can't be sure whether it was brought out at the staff meeting or later on, but if I had to put my finger on it one way or the other, I would say that it happened later on. People that I talked to said, "Yeah, we also understand that something had been tracked by Eastern Radar."

We have seen that Mishara's article and Halt's memo give different dates for the incident. Any hopes I had that Everett would quickly resolve this conflict were soon dashed. In the first interview, he narrowed down the date to March 1980 at the earliest to March 1981 at the latest, which wasn't too helpful. He did mention that the meeting took place around the time of a "tac-eval" – tactical evaluation – "the NATO equivalent of an operational readiness inspection." In the second interview, he said, "I looked for any notes or records to narrow down the time frame, but I couldn't find any." We also had the following exchange:

Jamison: As of now, I'm 99 1/2 percent certain that, although you can't remember the date, the incident that you're recounting is the same as one of the incident – or perhaps the only incident – that forms the subject matter of all these books and articles.

Everett: Well, it's the only instance I know of when the subject was discussed. I'm sure you and I are talking about the same [incident]. There just aren't that many times when relatively high-ranking officers with walkie-talkies and tape recorders go running off through Rendlesham Forest in search of something that was tracked by a radar facility and pinpointed in that location.

Between the second and the third interview I saw to it that Everett got *Sky Crash* and the *Omni* article. I began the third interview by asking if he had read them.

I sure did. [pause] I think it was the 29th of December. The way I came to that conclusion was that we used to have a Tuesday stand-up, so I got out a calendar for that year and looked at it. The night of the 27th is a Saturday night, and the 29th is a Monday night, which would have made the 30th – the day I would have gone to stand-up – a Tuesday. If it had occurred on the 27th – that's the day after Boxing Day– that's the weekend. I don't recall ever having any staff meetings on the weekend. So it would have had to have been during the week. Therefore, by the process of elimination, I think the 30th was the day I was at the staff meeting when they talked about the events of the night before.

I then raised the possibility that there might have been a UFO incident on the night of the 27th as well as the 30th.

I was there when they spoke of the events of the 29th. He [Col. Halt] says that he was out on the 27th. [Actually, although Halt's memo has the incident occurring on the morning of the 27th, it doesn't state that he was present.] I can't say that isn't true. I don't recall getting the impression that this thing had been going on for the whole weekend. I got the impression that it had just happened the night before.

I brought up the possibility of earlier incidents once more in the fourth interview:

Jamison: Do you still stand by your statement that the events discussed at the staff meeting were events that took place the night before, and not earlier that weekend?

Everett: That is my distinct recollection. I still believe that. I don't believe that they were speaking of events over the weekend. I think they were speaking of events of the previous night.

All in all, Everett's testimony offers no ground whatsoever for questioning the assumption that the incidents described (1) in the staff meeting, (2) by Mishara (and presumably by Conrad) in the *Omni* article, and by Halt in his memo, are the same.

Everett's selection of the 30th as the date for the staff meeting is based on its having been a stand-up meeting. It seemed reasonable that stand-ups weren't held on weekends. But why couldn't there have been a stand-up on the morning of Monday, December 29? I asked about this during the fourth interview:

Jamison: Some of the staff meetings are called stand-up meetings, and you told me what a stand-up meeting is. Are there also staff meetings which take place in the mornings which are not stand-up meetings?

Everett: Yes. There are more meetings that go on in the running of a "tac" fighter wing than I care to even think about. Too many meetings.

Jamison: You said that Tuesday used to be a day when they had stand-up meetings.

Everett: That's the best of my recollection.

Jamison: Does that mean, in a succession of weeks, the Tuesday meeting would be a stand-up meeting?

Everett: The stand-up is a "how-goes-it" – what happened over the weekend – what do I [the Wing Commander] need to know about it? Usually he would have a Tuesday meeting to get apprised of what happened over the weekend, and another one to fill in the time since Tuesday. He is a very busy man. He is responsible for a lot of information.

Jamison: If he wanted to be apprised of what happened over the weekend, why wouldn't he have the stand-up on a Monday?

Everett: I don't know. Maybe no one likes Mondays.

Jamison: Were there in general, though, staff meetings of some sort on Mondays?

Everett: I suppose so, but normally, after the weekend, most people will come to work. Messages will have come in over the weekend, and all this stuff will be sitting in your "in" basket. You spend Monday filtering through it – basically answering the mail that has come in over the weekend – so it takes you a day to get your stuff all in order. Then on Tuesday morning you can come in and say, "This is what happened over the weekend."

A stand-up meeting can require a lot of preparation. Information about what has happened on the base since the last stand-up has to be collected and summarized, and often viewgraph slides have to be prepared. It does seem appropriate to hold such meetings on Tuesdays rather than Mondays.

Between the third and fourth interview I happened to reread the account of what the radar operator of Watton had told Paul Begg. The following passage ([1], page 27) caught my eye:

> ...he recounted how the Intelligence Officers had informed that the Base Commander and several officers had been called out into the forest from a party on base which they were attending.

Wouldn't it be more likely that a party would have been thrown on Saturday the 27th than on Monday the 29th? I took this up with Everett during the fourth interview:

Jamison: Jenny Randles' footnote has the radar operator saying that some of the officers had been called out of a party. Do you think it likely that there could have been a party on Monday night?

Everett: Keep in mind that [this happened] over the holiday season, between Christmas and New Year's. The way the military works it is that every individual unit in the wing likes to have a Christmas or New Year's party. As far as the use of the officer's club for the nights of that time period is concerned, it's a fairly full agenda. Although I don't specifically remember there being a party at the club that Monday night, it wouldn't surprise me at all if there were a party at the club every night of the week prior and up to New Year's Eve.

Of course, if parties were being held every night, the information that officers were called out of one on the night of the incident is of no value whatsoever in fixing its date.

The British science journalist Ian Ridpath ([4]) and the writer Steuart Campbell ([5]) have suggested that the event that began the incident, the observation of a light apparently descending into Rendlesham Forest, was actually that of a bright meteor early in the morning of December 26. It is not unusual for someone who observes the descent of a meteorite from a distance of several miles to report its coming down only a few hundred feet away from him. A British police report supports their contention that the incident did indeed take place on the morning of December 26. In the fifth interview I asked Everett if the staff meeting could have been on the morning of the 26th. He replied that the meeting might well have taken place on the day after Christmas, and added:

> It's usually the general practice to try to give as much complimentary time off during the holidays as you can. With Christmas falling on a Thursday, it would be fairly standard to have Friday off. However, the people who go to staff meetings are pretty much at the beck and call of the commander 24 hours a day, seven days of the week. So if he saw the need of a meeting on Boxing Day, he would have had one.

Later in the interview he said:

> My having been single at the time, and the guy that I worked for having been married, I could easily argue that if there was a staff meeting that Friday morning, I would have gone instead of him so he could stay at home with his family. I couldn't state unequivocally that [the meeting] was not on Boxing Day.

Nothing Everett said throughout the interviews provides any objective basis for choosing between December 26 and December 30 as the date of the staff meeting he attended. At one point he did say that it was his "gut feeling" that it was the 30th. His recollections that the meeting was a stand-up and that the events related all took place the night before are firm. That a staff meeting would have been called on a weekend is a possibility; that it would have been a stand-up a near impossibility. I concur

with Everett in his exclusion of December 27 as a possible date for the staff meeting.

Was a report of the UFO incident made, and if so to whom was it made? Of course Col. Halt's memo was such a report, but it was made to the British Ministry of Defense. Was there a report made to a U.S. military level of command above the Wing Commander Gordon Williams?

During the first interview Everett said it seemed logical to him that, after the account of the incident had been presented at the meeting, someone would have suggested that "it be passed up-channel or a report made," or would have asked the question "shall we make a formal report, or pass it up the line?" Later in the interview, Everett stated:

> Whoever it was recounting the incident of the night before said, "Do you think we ought to make a formal report on this?", and the Wing Commander said, "No, I don't think we should say anything further about it...." My distinct impression was that the Wing Commander was not in the position where he wanted to lend his name or any credence to the story itself, although I don't think there was any doubt in his mind that something of significance had occurred the evening before.

Jamison: When you are told something like this, is it mentioned or understood that you will be discrete in talking about it, or is there no restriction on what you can say?

Everett: At the time, I don't think it was briefed in any sort of security classification. As I recall, it was just mentioned at the briefing that you might not want to discuss this with the press or anybody else who might come around asking, because you don't want to lend credence to what may be no more than a serious rumor. I was never contacted.

In the course of the next (second) interview, I told Everett that some reports placed Gordon Williams in Rendlesham Forest during the events of the night of the 29th (I did not mention to him that these reports have Williams conversing with entities repairing or hovering near a landed UFO). I asked if Gordon Williams had in any way indicated at the staff meeting some previous knowledge of the incident. Everett began his reply by once more bringing up Williams' response to the suggestion that a report be made:

Everett: I think the reason I remember the incident is that it surprised me that, faced with the amount of information in that short period of time, he [Williams] would have the presence of mind to say, "I don't think we should release an official statement." That might suggest that he had some prior knowledge of the incident. That is not my opinion – that was not the impression I took away from that particular discussion. I think he weighed the information, thought about it, and said, "No, I don't think we should lend credence to this story – regardless of how much fact and confirmation there might be behind it."

Jamison: He wasn't saying it was unbelievable.

Everett: Oh, no. No. By no means did he say, "This is an impossible story and I don't believe it for a minute." In fact, the impression that I have is that he said, "Well, a lot of reliable people saw something which they are willing to go on record as saying they have seen." His official point of view, as Wing Commander of the 81st, was that "I don't believe that we should release any official statement which would lend some official substance to the sighting itself."

Jamison: Was he asked whether an official statement should be released, or whether it should be sent up the chain of command?

Everett: Every wing has an Office of Public Affairs, a PA. They are responsible for the publicity: when people get awards and decorations, and when the wing does something out of the ordinary, it's the PA's job to write the story, factually and accurately, and release it to the press. An official report, on the other hand, would be out in a completely different form and forwarded up-channel. I don't know whether any official report was made, but I assume that it was. That's the Wing Commander's job. I am fairly sure that the comment was to the effect that the story should not be released to the public. Period.

Jamison: It seems to me – I'm just guessing and maybe I'm trying to force on you a version which I would like to believe – that I can see the Wing Commander's subordinate asking the Wing Commander whether the story should be given to Public Affairs, but I do not see it as his part to ask the Wing Commander whether he is going to send it up to the chain of command.

Everett: The point is well taken – it's a very good point. I think probably the crux of the issue is that Gordon Williams said, "I don't think we should release this to the public [i.e., to the PA]. I don't think this is something we should release from the Air Force to the general public as a story." I am sure that he took this information and passed it up-channel. He also took the decision not to release it to the general public.

Jamison: There was a very strong probability that it was sent up the chain of command?

Everett: It would have to be. That's his job. Our job in the military is to report any unusual circumstance – appearance, sighting, whatever – up-channel to see what they want to do with it at the top. We work for them,

whoever they are, and wherever they work. They'll then pass the information back down, saying this is what we want you to do. In the meantime, we keep it in – I don't want to say classified – in confidential, closed, military channels.

What about Roberts' account of entities repairing their damaged ship and even communicating with the Wing Commander? I have mentioned that, as far as I can determine, his account is uncorroborated by any additional witness interviewed by an investigator or journalist. Early in 1983, however, Larry Warren decided to relate his experiences at Bentwaters to Larry Fawcett, a UFO investigator associated with the group Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS). Warren had served as a Security Policeman in the U.S. Air Force and had been stationed at Bentwaters before leaving the Air Force in 1981. The very detailed account he provided Fawcett suggests that the incident described by Steve Roberts is a composite of two incidents, one of which started several hours earlier than the other. The one which started earlier is the incident described by Ted Conrad in the Mishara article. Warren was not involved in that incident but did participate in the second one.

According to him, he was picked up by truck while on guard duty at Rendlesham and dropped off near the east end of Woodbridge. He proceeded on foot with other airmen to a clearing in Rendlesham Forest. In this clearing were other airmen around a circular patch of green fog. A red ball of light then flew over the trees at the edge of the clearing, came to a stop directly over the green fog, and burst into a cascade of multicolored needles of light. Suddenly the lights were gone, and in the clearing was a large, wedge-shaped object. The airmen were ordered to surround it. Three beings, floating and enclosed in an orb of light, came around from the side of the object opposite Warren. An entourage of high-ranking base personnel, headed by Wing Commander Gordon Williams, then arrived. One of the beings separated from the other two and approached the Wing Commander. Williams and the being were not seen or heard to converse in the brief encounter that followed but slight hand gestures by Williams suggested communication of some sort. The meeting ended. The airmen were ordered to withdraw and were taken back to base.

This brief account of Warren's experience is based on interviews with him. Versions of his story are in *Clear Intent* [6] and *Sky Crash*. In these books he is given the pseudonym "Art Wallace." When he first came forward, Warren claimed that no beings appeared, or that others saw them but he did not. He has named other witnesses – in fact most of the witnesses interviewed by American investigators. None of them have confirmed that beings were present. Interviews with one of them support the contention that something like what Warren described did occur, that it occurred on the same night as the incident described at the staff meeting, and that Williams was on the scene ([7], pages 47-48). Some of this witness' testimony is in Appendixes A and B.

By coming forward, Warren provided not only a new twist to the Bentwaters case and names of previously unidentified participants, but the impetus for CAUS' investigation of the case. That investigation led to CAUS member Robert Todd's obtaining the Halt memorandum from the Air Force. Had Warren stayed out in the cold, Halt's memo would most probably have stayed in the files.

Everett's testimony has some relevance to Warren's account of the incident he observed. There was no mention of alien beings at the staff meeting, and Williams gave no indication of having been out in Rendlesham Forest the previous night. I did consider attempting in this article to assess the impact of Everett's testimony on Warren's account. To do so, however, would require introducing a large amount of material to which Everett's testimony is irrelevant. Since the main purpose of this article is to introduce new testimony on the Bentwaters case to *IUR* readers, I have decided not to. Warren has told me that he intends to present his experiences – both during and following the incident he witnessed – in a book of his own. I and surely everyone else interested in the Bentwaters case hope that he does.

Everett's testimony places Halt in Rendlesham Forest the night of the incident. Also, Everett recalls an assertion at the staff meeting that "there is a tape recording of the whole thing taking place." I have mentioned a tape recording supposedly made by Col. Halt. Everett's testimony suggests that this tape recording was in fact excerpted from a tape made during the incident described in the first paragraph of Halt's memo. Halt's tape, however, contains clear references to events which, according to the memo, didn't happen until one or two days after that incident. A discussion of the questions raised by his conflict would also require the introduction of a lot of material to which Everett's testimony is irrelevant.

I close by thanking Maj. (now Col.) Everett for consenting to the interviews and for his good-humored willingness to go over some points again and again.

References

1. Brenda Butler, Dot Street, and Jenny Randles, *Sky Crash* (London:Neville Spearmen, Ltd., 1984).

2. Jenny Randles, "The Rendlesham Forest Mystery," *Flying Saucer Review* 27, 6(1982):4-8.

3. Eric Mishara, "UFO Update," *Omni*, March 1983.

4. Ian Ridpath, "A Flashlight in the Forest," *The Guardian*, January 5, 1985,pp. 8-9.

5. Steuart Campbell, "Throwing Light on Rendlesham," *Magonia* 21 (December 1985):15-18.

6. Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood, *Clear Intent* (Englewood Cliffs, N.J.:Prentice Hall, 1984), 217.

7. Raymond W. Boeche, "Bentwaters—What Do We Know Now?", *MUFON 1986 UFO Symposium Proceedings* (Seguin, Tex.:Mutual UFO Network, 1986),44-61.

8. "UFO: The Bentwaters Incidents," Cable News Network, broadcast January 22, 23, 24, and 25, 1985.

APPENDIX A

Airman A's support for the incident described by Warren

Three of the witnesses named by Larry Warren were located and interviewed by Ray Boeche and Scott Colburn. The one on whose testimony we draw was, like Warren, a Security Policeman stationed at Bentwaters/Woodbridge in December 1980. Boeche and Colburn interviewed him by telephone four times. Boeche gives excerpts from these interviews in an article on the Bentwaters case which appeared in the proceedings of the 1986 MUFON symposium ([7], pages 46-48). In this article the security policeman is referred to as "Airman A." Boeche has been kind enough to send me a copy of the one interview he taped. Appendix D consists of some excerpts I transcribed from this copy.

Larry Fawcett of CAUS has also interviewed Airman A. I have been told that he was also interviewed for the CNN documentary on Bentwaters ([8]). These interviews were not aired. As far as I know, Airman A has not given any more recent interviews. He did not answer a letter I sent him.

The excerpts in Appendix D show that an airman under the command of Airman A noticed an "object of some sort," otherwise described as lights that "looked like a fire in the forest area," and that Airman A, his superior, and others "checked out the situation." Missing from these excerpts is a description of the object they encountered and its behavior. In Boeche's article, however, is the following excerpt from one of the interviews ([7], page 46):

> The thing had a pulsating red light on top of it, and several blue lights underneath it. Every time we got close to it, it would move away from us through the trees, then we'd try and catch up to it again.

There is little doubt that Airman A's testimony involves him in the incident described by Everett, Conrad, and Halt.

During the regional MUFON symposium held in August 1985 in Beverly, Massachussetts, Larry Warren granted two interviews. Robert Bletchman was the principal interviewer for the first one, held during the morning session. The principle co-interviewers for the second one, held during the afternoon session, were the late Allen Hynek and Willy Smith. In both of these interviews Warren went over what he experienced on the night of the incident.

Several aspects of Warren's account also come up in Airman A's interviews with Boeche and Colburn. I list them along with relevant excerpts from the interviews of Warren and Airman A:

Going back to Bentwaters to get light-alls, which don't work properly. (A light-all is a portable twin spotlight with a generator powered by a gasoline-motor.)

Warren (from the Hynek-Smith interview):

> I was on the post itself [at Bentwaters] maybe a half hour. A vehicle, a pick-up truck, pulled up, and there was [Airman A] in the driver's seat and an officer who I think made a comment to CNN. I'm not sure. I was told immediately to just "get into the back, we're going to the motor pool." I jump into the back...we gotta go all the way down this end [pointing to a map which I had], around here, and the motor pool was down in this area. We were told that we were going to hook up light-alls and I'd never done anything like that before, but apparently they were gas-run.
>
> We got a gas can from the garage, filled it up, and then there were some funny things going on...[Airman A] went over and filled one of these light-alls before he mounted up to another truck. He filled it up, and this is an odd part of this that no one's gone into. One of the officers that was involved in this – our commanding officer was out there with us at the time – went over to the vehicle and they have a meter on it determining whether the gas tank is full. But [unclear] looked at it and argued among themselves that this thing wasn't full and he said, "I just filled it up!" And they went on for about five minutes.... We hooked them up to the back of the truck, and at this time we had five people in the back of the pick-up truck I was in.

Warren (from the Bletchman interview):

> I stayed on the post very briefly when a vehicle pulled up and I knew one guy in it and the other was an officer. "We're going to the motor pool. Get in the back." Off we went to the motor pool.
>
> First of all, there were some problems even with the readings they were getting on the light-alls. It was strange. They weren't registering.... So, as we were hooking them up, they said we're going over to Woodbridge. I said, "Fine."
>
> This was the Bentwaters motor pool. Bentwaters motor pool had the light-alls which were always brought to Woodbridge. They didn't have a motor pool area because they were too small. Off we went.
>
> They turned these light-alls back on here [pointing to a map I had brought along]. And they turned off every time. They weren't even going. You could hear them start up, and then: boom. Nothing.

Airman A (from Appendix B):

We [on the basis of the portion of the interview up to this point, I take "we" as referring to Airman A himself, a Lt. Englund, and perhaps others] went back to Bentwaters base, grabbed the light-alls, had a patrol refuel same, and once refueled them...got out to [location] A – the site of the object. We had trouble turning the light-alls on – we turned them in the direction we saw an object. We couldn't get them on. Our truck wouldn't go on either. It was kind of like the energy had been drained out of both the units.

The green fog

Warren (from the Bletchman interview):

It was dark out there but this light was on the ground. This green fog, as I'll call it. The mist was about three feet in height. It was attached to the ground probably about three feet in height from the ground up. It was not hovering. It had no shape to it. It could have floated away for all I know.

Warren (from the Hynek-Smith interview):

The first thing that struck me was this kind of fog on the ground. You could see through it at one point. It had a greenish-yellow hue to it. It was a mist on the ground about a foot high. It wasn't a definite shape. It was almost 20 feet around and just in an area and almost circular.

Bletchman: Could you visually penetrate the mist to see the interior?

Warren: I could see the ground through it at different intervals.

Bletchman: There was apparently no form within the mist?

Warren: No. You could have walked through it. I wouldn't have wanted to.

Airman A (from [7], page 47):

We kept searching the area, trying to find the object as it moved through the trees. In the process, we came upon a yellow mist on the ground. It was like nothing I'd ever seen before.

The cows

Warren (from the Hynek-Smith interview):

Two cows that I believe belonged to that farmer walked up to this mist [the yellow fog] and were looking at it with no fear of the people. [Airman A] verified this. [By the summer of 1985, Larry Fawcett had also interviewed Airman A, and Warren had been informed of what he had said.] In fact, he said, "Ask Larry if he remembers the cows." He said that to Larry Fawcett – and they were staring at this. And no one was saying anything. They were just kind of looking around.

Warren (from the Bletchman interview):

Well, funny enough, there's cows out here. There's a number of cows. Well, two cows walked up...see this site [pointing to my map], this landing site here [my map was a copy of the one on page 39 of *Sky Crash*, and the "landing site" Warren was referring to is the oval marked "UFO landing spot" on that map], they've encompassed about half a mile in the circle there. Two cows came walking over from this side of the house. There's a farm over here.... They came walking over. [Airman A] has said to Larry [Fawcett] over the phone, "Ask Larry if he remembers the cows." This was an off thing; these cows came up to the fog. People were doing their thing. I was not told to do anything at this time. I was just standing there. No one's giving orders, but there were other people running around, doing their thing. These two cows came up very close to the people I was near – about five people away from me – and stared at this thing. I don't know if this guy is missing cows, but, I tell you, I didn't see them again.

Airman A (in response to a question by Boeche):

Yeah, I remember the animals. I was kind of glad that happened. It gave me back a sense of reality.

The object

Warren (from the Bletchman interview):

It was a solid metallic spaceship...like an arrowhead. It had three – the best way to describe them are like delta wings.... I don't know if it had landing gear or not.... It was so dark and the bottom side was almost flush to the ground. It flattened a lot of area, and it may have made a ring. I don't know. It could have, because the bottom was, like, convex.

It was convex on this side [pointing to the original of a drawing copied on page 96 of *Sky Crash*]. And these [pointing to the picture again] are to represent not really panels, but raised surfaces and rough boxes; you have pipes and valves as have been described by other witnesses. Again, the same configuration of lights, though. Red, blue – but not light: glowing, like neon almost. Phosphorescent, but not set – like if you turn a light on, you can't see the source of the light. It was just very distinct. Like the metal was giving off. The rest was a whitish, yellowish silver. Like heat bands...

[It was] about 25 feet [around], safe to say. Height 15 feet because it was larger than it was tall. It was taller than me, though. I've done a picture of it with a six-foot man standing next to it.

Warren (Hynek-Smith interview):

The thing I saw was a triangular-shaped object. It was very

low to the ground. It had a concave bottom and it would have had landing gear of some sort on it, but it was so low. I did this [showing the drawing referred to above] in the very beginning, but it isn't so accurate. It is on that principle, but it was a part extending here [pointing to the picture] to more of a triangular appearance. And this [referring to the picture again] is just to indicate that it had a very rough surface to it.

It was solid. And this had to leave some traces, too, but I've never seen them, either. [It] had a reddish – I won't say light at all, because I can't really describe it. The closest I could put to it is a neon light. Just the top part was a bright red, but you could see the structure of the ship through the red.

[A] white, yellowish, silver glow came from it and, again, there were no real lights blinking. It was just a light.... There was a blue band across the bottom, but again it wasn't lights.

Airman A ([7], page 47):

Suddenly, the object was just there: it was a dark, silver-colored metal, with plenty of rainbow-colored lights on it. I couldn't tell if something was breaking the light up, like a prism, into rainbow colors, if that was the actual color of the lights.... It was a tremendous size. It even surprised me that it was able to fit into the clearing – a tremendous size, and I use the word "tremendous" carefully. It was a round, circular shape; I hate to say like a plate, but it was thicker at the center than it was at the edge.

Surrounding the object

Warren (Bletchman interview):

We watched this thing [the object]. They made a perimeter, what is called Security Option Three. A guy kept yelling like a jackass, "Security Option Three!" That's in the event of a nuclear disaster. I didn't know how that applied to this. A bunch of idiotic security policemen surrounded [it]....

There were about 30 people in the whole immediate area.... They had about 30, I would say, to go around this thing. Now, Air Force policy – if you ever had a nuclear bomb, you have to rope it off and surround it while it's defused. They went into this thing, and did this with this! It's the most ridiculous thing I ever heard.

Airman A ([7], page 47):

We were ordered to form a perimeter around the object at about 15-foot intervals between patrol members.

Parallel testimony from both Warren and Airman A supports the following partial versions of incidents one and two. One of the men under the command of Airman A sees an object or light in the forest. Accompanied by his superior, Lt. Englund, he goes into the forest to investigate. He and Englund go back to Bentwaters by truck to get light-alls. They first pick up Warren at his post. Then they get the light-alls, which don't seem to work properly, and return to Woodbridge. Airman A and others resume their search for the object seen earlier. They come across an area of yellow mist two or three feet off the ground. After being dropped off, Warren proceeds on foot to a clearing in Rendlesham Forest, where he also sees a circular patch of greenish fog rising from the ground to a height of about three feet. He observes a pair of cows placidly gazing at the patch of fog. Airman A sees them, too. As he later puts it, the sight returns to him "a sense of reality." Airman A sees a large peculiarly lighted object. So does Warren. Airman A and others, including Warren, are ordered to form a perimeter surrounding the object.

The testimony of Airman A does support Warren's account in certain respects. His testimony also implies that the incident described by Warren (or one very similar to it) happened on the same night as the one described by Everett, Conrad-Mishara, and Halt.

Airman A also testifies that Gordon Williams made an appearance. During one of the Boeche-Colburn interviews, he states ([7], page 48):

At some point, I don't remember when, Col. Williams arrived on the scene.

In 1983 Williams was interviewed by a British newspaper reporter. According to *Sky Crash* ([1], page 169):

Williams denied that he had spoken to any aliens. In fact he denied that he was present.

When Boeche and Colburn confronted Airman A with Williams' denials, he responded ([7], page 51):

I know Williams was there, because I was standing right next to him.

APPENDIX B

Some excerpts from an interview with Airman A

I transcribed these excerpts from a copy of the taped interview with Airman A made by Boeche and Colburn:

We were in the alert area a mile away over to RAF Woodbridge base. One of my patrols sighted an object of some sort – said it was lights – looked like a fire in the forest area. I notified my commander – acting commander at the time – Ted Englund. He called the commander at night to check out the situation.

We proceeded to check out the situation: myself, Ted Englund, and Sgt. Ball. When we got there, he [By "he" Airman A clearly means Englund] pointed out the individuals he wanted to go with him. We [Englund and Airman A, perhaps others] went back to Bentwaters base, grabbed the light-alls, had

continued on page 21

The compleat skeptic

by Mark Rodeghier

Mark Rodeghier, president and scientific director of CUFOS, is the author of *UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference* (1981).

One frustration I face as a ufologist and, specifically, as scientific director of CUFOS is the task of occasionally "debating" skeptics about the evidence for the UFO phenomenon. Often these individuals are college professors, usually connected in some fashion with the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP). In most instances the debates occur on the radio, many times with a host who has little knowledge of the subject or idea of how to conduct a reasoned debate.

Do I find the job frustrating because it is difficult to present a coherent, impressive case for the serious, scientific investigation of the UFO phenomenon? Not at all. My problem is that I invariably face unqualified opponents, persons ignorant of the evidence for UFOs, of the literature on the subject, of the history of government involvement and civilian investigation, and of the details of specific impressive cases. Mike Tyson, the current heavyweight boxing champion, faces a somewhat parallel problem. There is really no one qualified to give him a good, clean fight (with the exception of his soon-to-be ex-wife Robin Givens, though for reasons unrelated to boxing). Tyson is heads and shoulders above the competition.

In the world of ufology, serious proponents are *far more knowledgeable* about both the pros and cons of the case for studying UFOs than *any* skeptic I have ever encountered. The best skeptics, in fact, come from the ranks of serious UFO researchers, as witnessed by the continuing debate over the Gulf Breeze events.

The arguments of those opposed to the study of UFO reports (who should more accurately be labeled "debunkers" rather than skeptics) often hinge upon a priori assumptions unrelated to the extant evidence. One common argument is that no aliens would visit the earth in the vast numbers UFO reports suggest. Another is that people interested in the UFO phenomenon and UFO witnesses are, in many cases, seeking salvation through UFOs and unrealistic solutions to the very real problems that face mankind. A third assumption is that scientists have always been open to the study of new phenomenon and, therefore, if science finds the evidence for UFOs unconvincing, it must be because of some deficiency of the evidence, not the close-mindedness of scientists.

All these arguments can be rebutted with little difficulty, although it is not the intent of this article to do so. Let me simply note that none of these arguments weaken the case for a serious study of the obvious social fact that UFO reports exist in large numbers and continue to be made today. We are not required to take a position on the interesting topics of the likelihood of alien visitation, the quest for religious salvation, or scientific openness to new data in order to study UFO reports seriously . It would be best, I contend, if investigators *did not* have a strong position on these questions before beginning the study of UFOs, else they take the risk of introducing personal bias into their work.

Let me turn instead to the related question of how to become a critical, responsible skeptic of the central concern of ufology, which is the serious study of the evidence for UFOs. Intellectually honest skepticism means not arguing on the basis of a priori assumption, of ad hoc reasoning, or with ad hominem arguments. Serious skepticism implies a familiarity with the data, ufologists, and relevant scientific and social studies, as well as the history of the UFO phenomenon worldwide. I suggest that qualified skeptics should adhere to the following guidelines:

Know the literature

Would you believe that I recently debated a skeptic who did not read *IUR* or the *MUFON UFO Journal*, and was unaware of the *Journal of UFO Studies*, the only scholarly journal on UFOs ever published in this country? And this from a skeptic who is a professor of science at a a major urban American university! I shudder to think about what else he may not have read.

The failure to read the current literature is symptomatic of a mindset which believes that ufologists do not produce serious evidence, so why read their literature? This stance, of course, precludes ever having to deal with evidence that *is* produced since one has ruled out the very possibility of its production beforehand.

The lesson here is easy: read the relevant literature. There is not an inexhaustible supply of it, so this task is doable and essential.

Know your opponent

Some of the best recent work in UFO studies has been done by GEPAN, the French government-sponsored UFO project. If someone is unaware that GEPAN even exists (it was formed in 1976), it would seem to be rather foolhardy to debate on the topic of ufology with an informed proponent. Yet many skeptics take the plunge, often to their eventual regret. Many skeptics are also unaware of the work of CUFOS, of the many scientists who have worked on the UFO problem, such as David Saunders, Joseph Accetta, or Richard Haines. Others don't know the most elemental facts about the various organizations. For example, while anyone who reads *IUR* or other CUFOS literature will understand that CUFOS takes no position on the nature of the UFO phenomenon, I have had skeptics immediately assume that CUFOS officially supports the notion that UFOs are alien spaceships. This occurs because skeptics do not take the time to study the actual positions of proponents, but instead impute positions to all ufologists that they find most easy to rebut.

Lesson number two: Learn about the investigators of the phenomenon and know who they are. Again, you can do that if you bother to read the relevant literature.

Know the facts

No chemist would be taken seriously if he or she came before a court of law as an expert witness and was found, under cross-examination, not to be familiar with the periodic table of elements and to be unaware of the principles of chemical bonding. A similar situation occurs when I confront skeptics, who are not aware of some of the most important UFO cases that offer support for the physical nature of the phenomenon. The Trans-en-Provence case, investigated by the French government, is simply not known by the skeptical community; yet it is one of the best-documented cases of all time. The Delphos, Kansas, trace case of 1971 is still important and has not been successfully debunked. (See the January/February and May/June 1987 issues of *IUR* for the articles by Erol Faruk on his continuing investigation of the traces.)

The skeptics I meet are not aware of David Saunders' papers on UFO-reporting dynamics, Donald Johnson's work and my own on vehicle interference cases, the papers by James McCampbell on the physical effects of UFOs, Bruce Maccabee's definitive work on the McMinnville photos, or Eddie Bullard's massive compilation/analyses on abduction cases.

It is legitimate to familiarize oneself with this work and *then* to argue that it does not make the case either that there is something physical about the UFO phenomenon or, at the least, that there is something about UFOs worth investigating. It is not legitimate to meet my references to Joe Accetta's paper on geophysical correlates of UFO sightings (*Journal of UFO Studies*, Vol. II, 1980) with a blank stare and a mumbled comment that "I didn't see the paper in *Science*, so how could it be important?"

As we all know, the official scientific establishment has consistently rejected papers that present the case for the UFO phenomenon while accepting those that do the opposite. Anyone who wishes to be well-informed about the current state of ufological research must read the serious literature, attend conferences, and talk with some of the actual persons doing the work. Anything less invites the charge of superficial and misinformed criticism, and that, friends, is our third lesson: know the facts!

Don't mix up the facts you do know

Most skeptics know about the alleged UFO crash at Roswell and may have skimmed the book written by William Moore and Charles Berlitz on the case. The skeptics have also heard about the MJ-12 document which mentions the Roswell crash. As has been noted repeatedly in the pages of *IUR* (see, for example, Jerome Clark's editorial in this issue), the evidence for the Roswell crash is independent of that for the existence of MJ-12 and a secret government project on UFOs. To confuse the two is to make serious historical and logical errors, but it is one made by almost all skeptics.

Another example: In general, two types of persons report contacts with intelligent beings associated with UFOs: contactees and abductees. As has been pointed out many times in the UFO literature (a good summary is by religious historian J. Gordon Melton in his paper in the CUFOS volume *The Spectrum of UFO Research)*, there is no logical relation between these two groups of persons. Contactees, like George Adamski or Billy Meier, have many beneficent contacts with the space brothers, are given important information for humanity and treated well and, to spread the word, surround themselves with credulous supporters. Abductees, on the other hand, are persons who have frightening, disturbing contacts with alien intelligences, receive little or no information, are treated like laboratory animals, and don't surround themselves with acolytes in an attempt to propagate their ideas.

To fail to distinguish between these two groups is a serious error, but it is one made regularly by confused skeptics. Our fourth lesson is thus: study carefully those facts you do know, else your arguments will be ineffectual, muddled, and obtuse.

Know thyself

This is the last lesson, one taught to us by all the great religions of the world and by the ancient philosophers. Do skeptics know that Edward Condon distorted the findings of his staff when he wrote his introduction to the University of Colorado's study of UFO reports? Do skeptics know that Donald Menzel's explanations of UFO sightings were so inadequate (and at a variance with known scien-

tific principles) that even the Air Force didn't take them seriously? Do skeptics know that Philip J. Klass wrote his recent book on abductions with little firsthand contact with abductees and hardly any use of original reports? Do skeptics know that...? Ah, I could go on, but why continue to rub it in?

The point is simply that a responsible skeptic will be aware of the history of ufology, including the actions of his colleagues. If he or she is not, then it is possible to make ridiculous claims that have no basis in reality. One skeptic (a professor of science) told me that he himself was eager to learn of new evidence for UFOs and that his fellows in CSICOP were of the same mind. This statement is preposterous, given the pressure applied by one prominent UFO debunker against the University of Nebraska when it held an open conference on UFOs and other anomalies; other skeptics have brazenly suggested that UFO proponents should not be allowed to publish their results in any serious journal. That professor's statement is also contrary to recent findings in the sociology of science which make plain the rhetorical strategies used by established scientists to prevent the acceptance of what are labeled (by them) "pseudosciences."

I have often fantasized about giving a lecture where I take both sides in the UFO controversy. I would begin the talk with a rebuttal of a portion of the UFO evidence. Then I would walk to the other side of the hall and respond to that criticism by presenting the case for the serious study of the UFO phenomenon. And then I would respond to those statements, and so forth for the duration of the talk. I would find it enjoyable, and I'm willing to bet my audience would, too. It would be much easier than playing tennis by oneself.

I might start my skeptical arguments by discussing the enormous problems in ufology over the quality of data collection. No one protocol has guided the selection of case reports, the collection of relevant data, and the guidelines for retention and classification of case material. I believe that this methodological flaw may preclude the use of *any* of the mass of preexisting reports for detailed statistical analysis. This applies to past studies, such as my own vehicle-interference cases. I could go on this vein for quite a bit, but why make the skeptics' job any easier? Learning is hard work, should they ever make the effort to educate themselves, and some day they may just find that out. ■

EDITORIAL — *continued from page 3*

Meanwhile the cover-up story continues. It has been a year and a half since Moore and Jaime Shandera released the MJ-12 briefing paper. So far no one, despite strenuous and often labored debunking efforts both inside and outside the UFO community, has been able to discredit it. On the other hand, proof of its authenticity remains as elusive as ever.

We do know this much about it: Contrary to an assertion made by CSICOP chairman Paul Kurtz shortly after the document came to public attention, the MJ-12 paper is no "clumsy" hoax. If it is a hoax, it is a very good one; if it weren't, it would have gone the way of other "official" UFO documents that *were* clumsy hoaxes. Ufologists know far more about UFO hoaxes, clumsy and otherwise, than Professor Kurtz does. Stan Friedman has shown in these pages that whoever prepared the paper – whether Adm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter (the alleged author) or hoaxer – knew exactly what he was doing. Perhaps most remarkably, the author knew, before either ufologists or Menzel's friends did, of astronomer/debunker Donald H. Menzel's intelligence-agency connections. This may indicate, in the absence so far of other logical suspects, that the hoax (if such it was) originated within the intelligence community.

Where does the cover-up story stand at the moment?

That an unusual flying object, which those involved in its recovery believed to be a UFO, crashed near Corona, New Mexico, in July 1947 seems undeniable – for all practical purposes a given. (The best summation of the considerable evidence is not in Moore and Charles Berlitz's flawed 1980 book *The Roswell Incident* but in Moore's paper "Crashed Saucers: Evidence in Search of Proof," published in *MUFON 1985 UFO Symposium Proceedings*.) It also seems certain that authorities lied to the press to hide the true nature of the material. Because they have not told us the true story 41 years later, a cover-up exists by definition.

But is the cover-up of UFO remains or of something else, such as a supersecret aircraft? Not the slightest hint of evidence to suggest the latter has come to light in the decades since, although it would be unwise flatly to rule out the possibility. We could, however, rule it out if we learned that bodies of nonhuman beings were recovered in or near the Corona wreckage. In fact (or, more precisely, in allegation), such evidence is beginning to emerge, as informants who were at the site reveal what they claim is the episode's deepest secret. Are they telling the truth? Investigators not ordinarily known for their credulity are convinced they are, but time, continued research and further developments should give us a definite answer.

But let us assume that the Corona object, with or without humanoid bodies, was, as believed by the recoverers, an alien vehicle. Let us further assume that the truth about the crash was covered up. Where logically can we go from here?

To start with, we can reasonably assume that a highly classified project, led by some of the brightest men in the scientific, intelligence and military communities, would be established to study the recovered material and to assess all its implications. The existence of this project would be known only to a select few, those who had a clear need to know. Whether that project was called MJ-12 or something else, its creation, following a Roswell incident, would be inevitable.

It is also reasonable to assume that, once the project determined from the evidence in its possession that extraterrestrial visitation is occurring, it would seek to learn everything it could about the nature and motives of the aliens. Moreover, it would institute procedures for immediate response to future crashes, ensuring that trained and security-conscious personnel would be on site to collect remains and to keep inquisitive civilians (including reporters) away.

If other crashes took place, conceivably some of the occupants could have remained alive. These survivors would be taken into custody and interrogated. Through this process, perhaps, or another (such as electronic communication) direct contact between the U.S. government and extraterrestrials could be established, as part of an effort to learn what the aliens' motives are. Meetings could be arranged.

Meanwhile, all this could be kept secret, more or less. That is, those who knew, perhaps by accident, some or all of the story would not be believed if they related the information to the press or even to ufologists. After all, stories of crashed discs and recovered bodies were in circulation from the early days of the UFO age on, and even in the UFO community they were not taken seriously. Those in the know could not prove what they were saying. How could they? They could only report what they saw or heard, and that was so fantastic as to be literally incredible. The secret is such that it keeps itself by virtue of its unbelievability.

As all this is going on, some people within the cover-up may have grave doubts about the wisdom of keeping this from the American people. Their motives are various: an idealistic sense that in a democracy citizens have a right to know, or a simple pragmatic concern that people should be prepared in order to prevent panic and confusion, should events spin out of the control of the handlers of the cover-up. So some individuals begin to leak stories and documents to ufologists and journalists, hoping perhaps to force the government eventually to tell what it knows. Or perhaps the leakers are working with the knowledge and cooperation of their superiors, who plan to educate Americans to a reality they must face – but slowly.

None of this is impossible; all of it follows logically from the Roswell incident. All of it, of course, is precisely what we are being led to believe has happened and is happening. We are being told not only that UFOs have crashed but that EBEs have been kept at highly secure military and intelligence installations, that contact has been established, that certain persons within the cover-up have been leaking its secrets to ufologists and media people since the early 1970s.

Unfortunately, while these claims make a certain hypothetical sense, the evidence supporting them is all but nonexistent. If they were not coming from military officers and intelligence agents, nobody would be paying any attention to them. Even so, contrary to what critics have charged, ufologists have responded with caution and good sense to these tales. Everyone agrees they're interesting; everyone – that is, everyone sensible – also agrees that so far there is no reason to think they are true. At the moment we need be neither atheists nor believers but agnostics. We should doubt, but not flatly deny, as we seek the evidence that will provide solid confirmation or disconfirmation. If the stories turn out to be true, we have the answer to the UFO mystery. If they're false, we have an almost equally interesting issue to ponder: why did people with official connections go to all this trouble to concoct wild tales for no obvious reason?

(Incidentally, none of this has anything to do with "conspiracy theories," as some of the more frivolous critics would have us believe. Conspiracy theories are paranoid visions in which political, economic and social events are held to be secretly controlled by vastly powerfull, vastly sinister, nearly always invisible forces. Serious ufologists who think there may be a cover-up harbor no such beliefs; they simply work from the undeniable premise that governments keep secrets, and they go on to suggest that information about UFOs may be among those secrets. That doesn't mean, naturally, that at ufology's fringes paranoid fantasies aren't being spun; they are, always. We are writing here, however, of the issue as it is defined by ufology's rational proponents.)

If the cover-up exists, we would expect that at some point evidence of it would come to the attention of responsible writers and journalists with no ties to the UFO community. That seems at last to have happened. A highly regarded investigative journalist – a former *New York Times* and *Village Voice* reporter, author of several books on political and intelligence matters, and a two-time nominee for the Pulitzer Prize in journalism – is now on the story, having learned of it from intelligence sources whom he met while engaged in research for an earlier book having nothing to do with UFOs.

The cover-up story is not going to go away. To the contrary, it is likely that it will be with us more than ever in the weeks and months ahead. After four decades, the questions linger. Are the answers imminent? We'll see.
— *Jerome Clark*

A fire in the forest – *continued from page 17*

a patrol refuel same, and once we refueled them [inaudible]. When we got out to A, the site of the object, we had trouble turning the light-alls on. We turned them in the direction we saw the object, but couldn't get them on. Our truck wouldn't go on either. It was kind of like all the energy had been dragged out of both the units.

After that, we were told to wait at point A. Col. Halt was contacted. He said he was on the way with individuals from the tower. Later we went there and started to search. One individual said he had spotted the object on the ground. We proceeded to look and in the process found kind of like triangular tripod [marks] quite a distance from each other. They were like it was a heavy object [and] made quite a dent on the ground. They took a radiation reading on the hole and got quite a reading, I recall. ■

Letters

Fantasy or trauma?

To the editor:

I read with considerable interest the article by Keith Basterfield and Robert E. Bartholomew on "Abductions: The Fantasy-Prone-Personality Hypothesis" (*IUR*, May/June). The best one can say about their hypothesis is the Scottish verdict: "not proved." While valuable, the article contains some weaknesses, among them the following:

(1) According to the authors, the general incidence of the fantasy-prone personality (FPP) in the population is four percent (.04) or one out of 25. This has some implications for how likely a group of persons with two or more members is to have only FPPs in it. If we start with a two-person group and one person is FPP, the chance that a second person, taken at random, is FPP is one out of 25. If we take a three-person group, the chance that all three are FPP, if one person is, is .0016, or one in 625. Even considering that FPPs may be likely to be the spouses or friends of FPPs – a point not yet proved – these numbers imply that most FPPs, if part of a group, are very likely to have another member of that group be a non-FPP. This is important for multiple-person abduction cases, because the implication is that during most "abductions" when another is present, usually that other person present will not be another FPP.

(2) Although Basterfield and Bartholomew mention an impressionistic analysis of 16 multiple cases, the details are not given and no citation to another published or even unpublished paper is made. By contrast, they ignore the study by Ted Bloecher, Aphrodite Clamar and Budd Hopkins, "Final Report on the Psychological Testing of UFO Abductees." I am not sure how the findings of this report respond to the FPP hypothesis, but they do support the hypothesis of "post-traumatic stress."

(3) Most of the symptomatology of abductees is perfectly consistent with the hypothesis of post-traumatic stress syndrome. "Nightmares, involuntary memories, 'hypervigilance,' and flashbacks" are typical of abductees – and also of Vietnam veterans, whence I got these characteristics. Hypervigilance is not among the characteristics of FPP people listed in their article, but it was quite common in the analysis of the protocols of Bloecher, et al, and in my own limited experience with abductees.

Ron Westrum, Ph.D.
Ann Arbor, Michigan

To the editor:

Are people actually being abducted by alien beings, or are these individuals really victims of a dramatic new psychological phenomenon which leaves the same psychological scars as a real traumatic event?

In my opinion, there does not appear to be much chance of proving the former. After all, what are the odds of there being someone hiding in the bushes with a camera (preferably a movie camera) when an abduction is taking place? And even if there were, the available data suggest that the abductors control the entire show, including the "switching-off" of any potential witnesses, whether they are in a house some distance away or in the bushes nearby.

If abductions are physically real, they represent the ultimate covert action. They can occur at any time and anywhere, it seems. Most of their victims have no recollecton of the event, with some only beginning to recall having a strange experience many years later, and, I would think, some never recalling. All this and the fact that the great majority of humankind is oblivious of this apparently systematic taking of human beings.

Meanwhile, the psychological interpretation remains a rich area for investigation. An in-depth study of abductees should be undertaken by mental-health professionals with ufologists available in a consultative capacity.

Tom Burns
New Milford, New Jersey

Prophecy or alien science?

To the editor:

In Jenny Randles' "A Visitor from Gharnasvarn" (*IUR*, July/August) the alien is reported to have said, in August 1958, "There are three particles in the nucleus, but your scientists believe it is one. Three small ones are pressed together...."

If truly written down 30 years ago by Randles' source, Dr. John Dale, the statement either is prophetic or did indeed come from an alien science. We understand the statement now as a reference to quarks, which were not proposed until six years later, by Gell-Mann and Zweig. According to the quark model, protons each have two "up" quarks and one "down" quark, while the neutron has two "down" and one "up." The model so successfully explains the plethora of nuclear particles that Gell-Mann won the Nobel Prize for it in 1969.

Thomas M. Olsen
Phoenix

Circles

To the editor:

After reading Paul Fuller's "Mystery Circles: Myth in the Making" (*IUR*, May/June), I would like to make a suggestion.

I have spent my 79-year life in the panhandle country of Texas and Oklahoma. During that time I have observed seeps which bring up alkali to the top of the ground. In other cases I have seen clean water do the same to potassium and phosphorous. I should think this would have some effect on the strength of the stalks of field crops. Perhaps these kinds of chemical effects have something to do with the "mystery circle" phenomenon. Soil analysis may offer some clues.

G. E. Mahaffey
Logan, Oklahoma

Critics and Gulf Breeze

To the editor:

After reading the CUFOS April *Special Bulletin* and the March/April issue of *IUR*, I must admit I doubted that there was any hope that the leadership of CUFOS would ever reconsider its militantly skeptical position about the Gulf Breeze, Florida, case. I also understood clearly the source of the disinformation which bore the fingerprints of an Alabama critic unable to fit the Gulf Breeze sightings into standard ufological patterns.

Now, however, after reading the editorial in May/June *IUR*, I take a new position in support of Jerome Clark and the CUFOS leadership. Their ability to listen, consider and then adjust to the preponderance of real evidence certainly impresses me. I feel sorry for those who have closed their minds and continue to twist the case and, in doing so, slander my family.

I suggest to the fomenters of ridicule that the best way to cast doubt on a UFO photo is to duplicate it. Keep accurate, detailed records of materials used and time needed. Then submit the fake duplicates for intensive study along with the back-up data before making your bold claim "That's how it's done." This would involve commitment to the scientific method. Unfortunately, I suspect the critic only has time to grind out more slander and ridicule. As Bruce Maccabee points out, many of the Gulf Breeze photos could have been of a model hung by a string or a double exposure, while other photos rule out these possibilities. So, in a serious effort to duplicate, try the "road shot" and the "tree shot" (#1) or, better yet, a photo with the stereo camera, as discussed in Dr. Maccabee's Fund for UFO Research report.

Before November 11, 1987 (my first sighting), my attitude toward UFOs was "show me." Now my attitude toward the critic is "show me." Anybody can twist a nuance here and an innuendo there. Anybody can accuse and ridicule from afar. That kind of haphazard, irresponsible "say it now, find out the facts later" approach benefits no one.

"Ed"
Gulf Breeze, Florida

Coming in IUR...

A conversation with Budd Hopkins
by Jerome Clark

The pendulum from the Pleiades
by Bruce Maccabee

The Coyne case – new witnesses
by Jennie Zeidman

Unraveling the mystery of UFO waves
by Thomas E. Bullard

UFOs in science fiction
by Chris Rutkowski

BERKLEY PUBLISHING GROUP ANNOUNCES THAT WHITLEY STRIEBER IS NOT ASSOCIATED WITH AND HAS NOT ENDORSED THE U.F.O. ABDUCTORS BY BRAD STEIGER.

The new *Journal of UFO Studies*

CUFOS has been committed since its inception to the publication of scientific studies of the UFO phenomenon. Continuing that tradition, we announce in this issue of *IUR* the publication of the new series of the *Journal of UFO Studies* (*JUFOS*).

Three volumes of *JUFOS* have previously been published, the last in 1983. The new *JUFOS* will, we hope, be a significant contribution to the maturation of ufology as a scientific discipline. The journal will be a refereed, academic publication in every possible sense. We plan to open up its pages to any contributor whose work meets the highest standards of quality. Contributions from overseas are especially welcome.

CUFOS is fortunate that Prof. Michael D. Swords of Western Michigan University has agreed to be the new journal's new editor. He has done an excellent job of amassing a distinguished editorial board and gathering quality contributions for the first volume. These tasks were made even more difficult by the previous failure of other serious journals, such as *UPIAR Research in Progress*, a European journal which was founded with high hopes several years ago.

Each issue of *JUFOS* will contain original articles, structured exchanges on issues of importance, reviews of relevant literature, and short reports of investigations that illuminate some aspect of the UFO phenomenon. CUFOS plans to publish the journal once a year until a critical mass of researchers exists to support a more frequent schedule.

The first volume of the new series has been completed. The contents are:

• A serious technical analysis of soil samples from the Delphos, Kansas, trace case by Dr. Erol A. Faruk. It is perhaps the most complete analysis ever undertaken of a physical-trace case in the United States.

• An article on the relationship between abductions and hypnosis by Dr. Thomas E. Bullard, the leading academic authority on the existing data on abduction cases.

• An in-depth examination by Dr. Swords of the current scientific understanding of the possibility and nature of intelligent extraterrestrial life and the consequences of this knowledge for the extraterrestrial hypothesis in ufology.

• A forum on abduction research, including discussions of data-acquisition protocols, current problems and future plans. The forum consists of two rounds; in the first, contributors state their positions and in the second, responses are made to the initial statements. Participants include Hilary Evans, Dr. Donald Donderi of McGill University, Dr. Peter Rojcewicz of Juilliard, Dr. Stuart Appelle of the State University of New York, Dr. Robert Baker of the University of Kentucky, and Dr. Jean Mundy, a practicing psychologist who works with Budd Hopkins.

• Book reviews on the two most recent collections of high-quality research on the UFO subject, *UFOs 1947-1987* and *The Spectrum of UFO Research*.

The production of the new *JUFOS* began about two years ago. It will come to fruition early in 1989 when the first volume is published. But it is a journal still in its infancy, and the editor, editorial board and I welcome your suggestions, criticisms and, most important, your contributions. We also hope for the strong support of CUFOS associates in this endeavor. Please try to mention *JUFOS* to your friends and colleagues who have a serious interest in the UFO phenomenon. The journal needs the widest possible distribution to have a significant impact on the scientific community and the public.

Now to the mundane details: A single issue of the journal costs $15.00. We expect the first volume to be published sometime in January. Early orders would be appreciated because they will help defray printing and production costs. — *Mark Rodeghier*